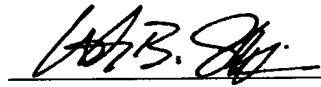


REMARKS

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,



Harry B. Shubin (Reg. No. 32,004)
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO
& BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

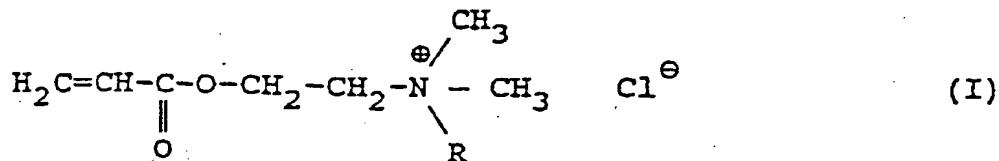
Attorney Docket No.: ATOCM-229

Date: July 20, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1-12 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for the manufacture of aqueous solutions of unsaturated quaternary ammonium salts corresponding to the following formula (I):



in which R represents a methyl or benzyl radical, by reaction, in the presence of water, of N,N-dimethyl-aminoethyl acrylate (DAMEA) with a quaternizing agent of formula (II):



in which R is as defined above,

characterized in that wherein:

(a) the reaction is carried out in a closed reactor, which comprises 5-60% of the amount by weight of the DAMEA necessary for the reaction and which has been pressurized by air or depleted air to 0.5 to 3 bar, by continuously introducing, at a temperature of 35 to 65°C, ~~on the one hand~~, the quaternizing agent (II) and ~~on the other hand~~, the water and finally the remaining DAMEA, until the desired concentration of salt (I) in the water is obtained,

- the start of the introduction of the water beginning when 0-30% of the amount by weight of the quaternizing agent (II) necessary for the reaction has been added;
- the start of the introduction of the remaining DAMEA beginning when 20-80% of the amount by weight of the quaternizing agent (II) necessary for the reaction has been added; and
- it being possible for the pressure at the end of the reaction to reach 9 bar; then

(b) the reactor is depressurized while keeping the oxygen content constant by

simultaneous introduction of air end, after returning to atmospheric pressure, the residual quaternizing agent is removed.

2. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 40 to 60°C.

3. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out with a pressure which, at the end of the reaction, reaches 4 to 7 bar.

4. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the introduction of the water is started when 10-20% of the amount by weight of the quaternizing agent (II) necessary for the reaction has been added.

5. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the introduction of the remaining DAMEA is started when 30-70% of the amount by weight of the quaternizing agent (II) necessary for the reaction has been added.

6. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the quaternizing agent is introduced over a period of time of 1-7 hours, the water over a period of time of 1-8 hours and the remaining DAMEA over a period of time of 2-8 hours.

7. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out with a molar ratio of the quaternizing agent to the DAMEA of 1 to 1.1, ~~preferably of 1 to 1.05~~.

8. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out with a mean ratio of water/quaternizing agent throughput of 0.2-1.5; a mean ratio of remaining DAMEA/quaternizing agent throughput of 2.5-5; and a mean ratio of water/remaining DAMEA throughput of 0.2-1.2.

9. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that it results claim 1, resulting~~ in an aqueous solution having a concentration of quaternary salt (I) of 50 to 85% by weight.

10. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that it is claim 1, carried out in the presence of at least one stabilizer chosen in particular from which is~~ 3,5-di(tert-butyl)-4-hydroxytoluene, hydroquinone methyl ether, hydroquinone, catechol, tert-butylcatechol, phenothiazine and or mixtures of these stabilizers, the content of stabilizing agent(s) being ~~in particular from~~ 20 to 2000 ppm, ~~preferably from 100 to 1200 ppm~~, with respect to the aqueous solution of quaternary salt (I).

11. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that it is carried out in the presence in addition of at least one sequestering agent for metals chosen in particular from which is~~ diethylene-triaminepentaacetic acid, the pentasodium salt of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, N-(hydroxyethyl)-ethylenediaminetriacetic acid and or the trisodium salt of N-(hydroxyethyl)ethylenediaminetriacetic acid, the content of sequestering agent(s) being ~~in particular from~~ 1 to 100 ppm, ~~preferably from 5 to 30 ppm~~, with respect to the aqueous solution of quaternary salt (I).

12. (Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the residual quaternizing agent is removed by stripping with air.

Claims 13-15 have been newly added and, therefore, no marked-up version is necessary.